

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA: J. OWEN ZURHELLEN, JR.

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

M: MR. EAGLEBURGER

AID:MHUNTINGTON

S/S-O:PK JOHNSON

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Z 260049Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 122371

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY
TO PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA:

2. BEGIN TEXT. YOUR HIGHNESS: MR. CHAPMAN HAS KEPT
ME INFORMED ON THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN LAOS DURING RECENT
DAYS, AND I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH KEEN INTEREST THE EFFORTS
OF YOUR HIGHNESS AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN THE
TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE INSTRUCTED MR. CHAPMAN TO COMPLY
WITH YOUR DESIRE TO HAVE THE UNITED STATES AID MISSION
TO LAOS WITHDRAWN AS AN ENTITY, WHILE RESERVING FOR
FURTHER DISCUSSION THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS IN THE AID FIELD. IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THAT DECISION, THE PERSONNEL OF THE AID MISSION
AND THE MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES ARE BEING BROUGHT HOME
AS RAPIDLY AS THE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION PERMIT, AND
SECRET

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WE ARE TAKING OTHER STEPS TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF OUR
EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE TO THAT NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT
NORMAL DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS IN OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP.

PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE SPEED AND AMITY WITH WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND OURS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AGREE TO THESE MOVES, I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT AN APPARENTLY HOSTILE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF CERTAIN GROUPS IN LAOS HAS HINDERED OUR ABILITY TO REMOVE OUR PERSONNEL AND CARRY OUT OTHER WORK WITH THE FREEDOM THAT IS GUARANTEED UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO WHICH LAOS AND THE UNITED STATES ARE PARTIES. OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HINDERED FROM GOING IN AND OUT OF THEIR HOMES AND OFFICES, THEIR PERSONAL BAGGAGE HAS BEEN SEIZED AND SEARCHED IN VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE, AND OUR EMBASSY HAS BEEN THEREBY HANDICAPPED IN CARRYING OUT ITS IMPORTANT TASK OF WORKING WITH THE LAO GOVERNMENT ON THE FURTHERANCE OF OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS.

I CANNOT BELIEVE, YOUR HIGHNESS, THAT THESE ACTIONS ARE ANYTHING OTHER THAN THOSE OF A MISGUIDED FEW WHO DO NOT COMPREHEND THE SANCTITY OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND THE NEED, FOR THE SAKE OF ALL GOVERNMENTS, FOR THE UNHINDERED RIGHT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO CARRY OUT THE ESSENTIAL TASKS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NATIONS. I APPEAL TO YOUR HIGHNESS, THEREFORE, TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF A STATE OF RELATIONS CONSISTENT WITH OUR FRIENDSHIP OF SO MANY YEARS. IN ALL CANDOR, YOUR HIGHNESS, I MUST

TELL YOU THAT IF THESE ACTS AGAINST US PERSONNEL CONTINUE WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CLOSE OUT OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO THE KINGDOM OF LAOS COMPLETELY.

PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR HIGHNESS, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT. KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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